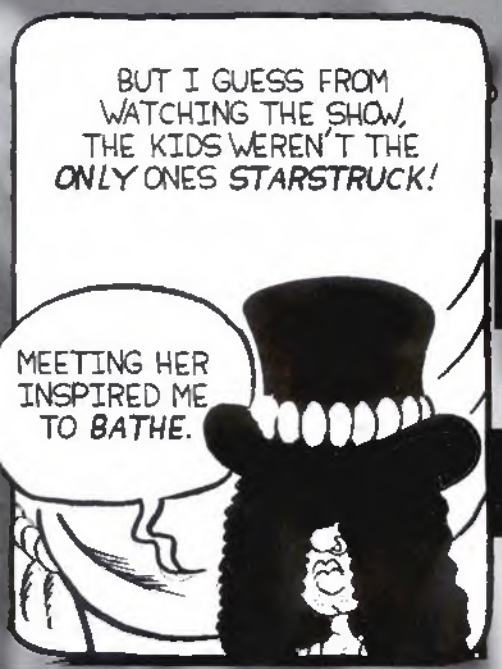
No. 6
$2.95
AMELIA Rules!
ON TOUR!
GASP AT AMELIA'S HORROR WHEN SHE LEARNS...
My AUNT TANNER is a HOTTIE!

AMELIA Rules!™ #6

WRITTEN ILLUSTRATED AND COLORED BY

JIMMY GOWNLEY



EDITED BY

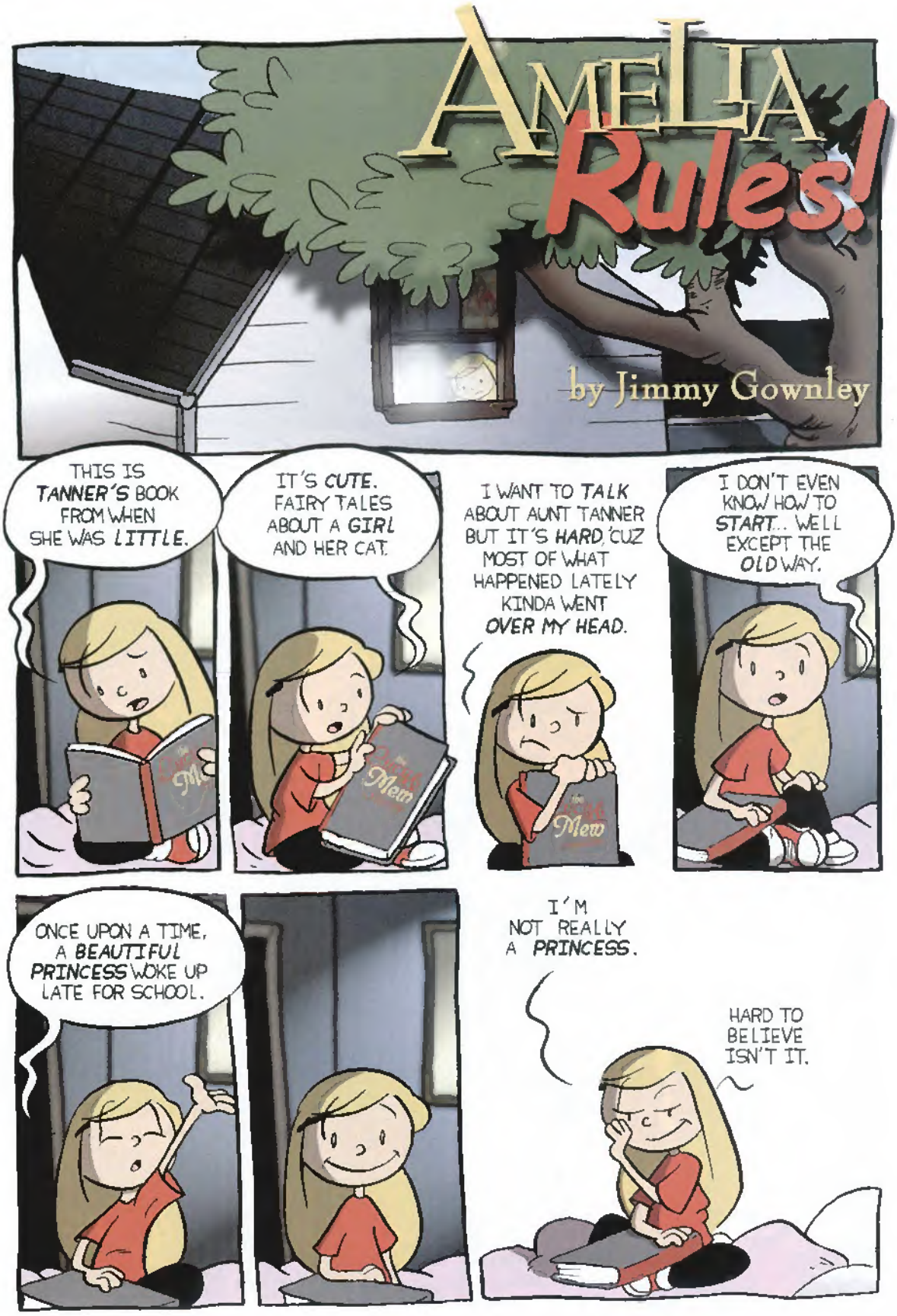
MICHAEL COHEN

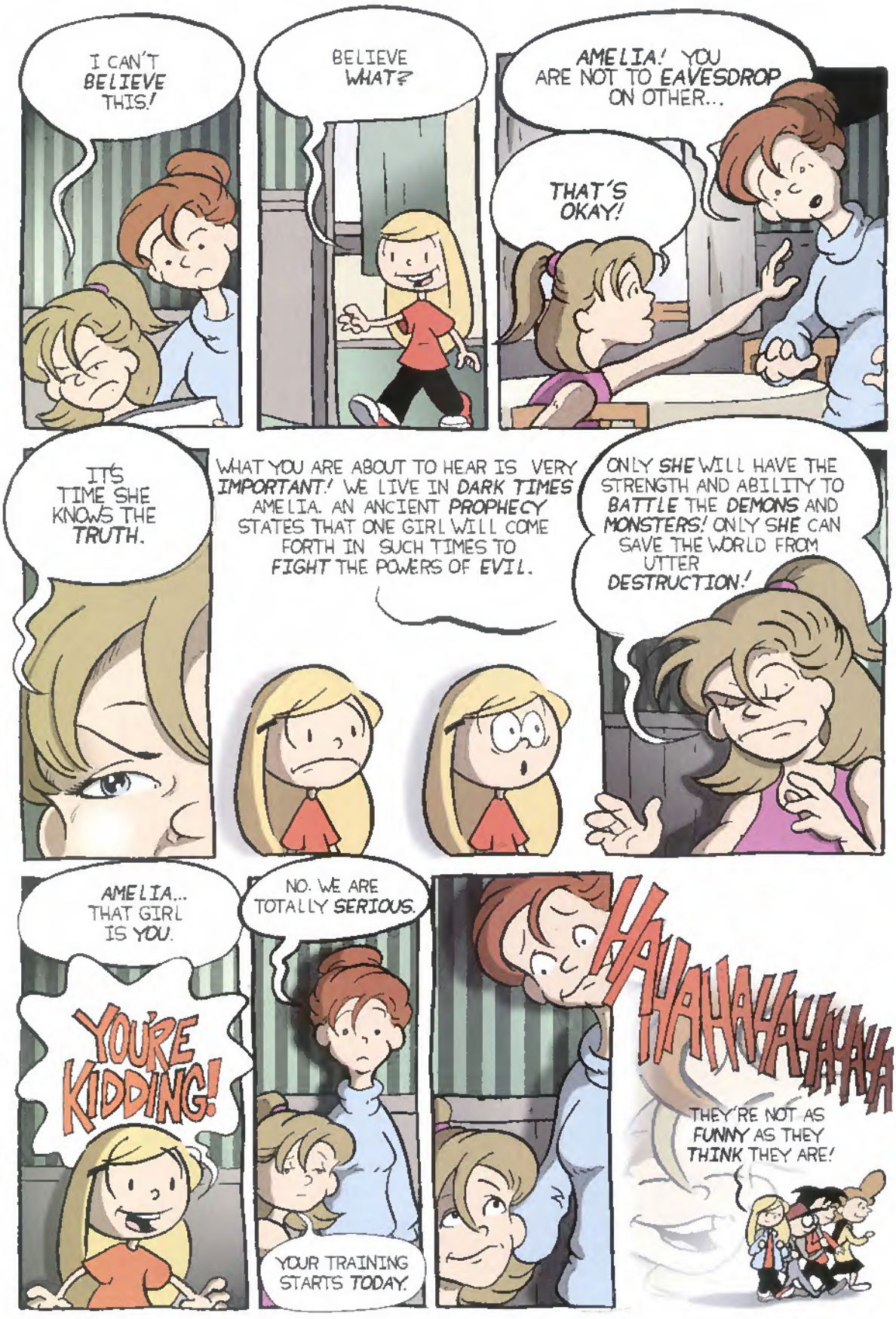
MARKETING AND PROMOTION BY

KAREN GOWNLEY

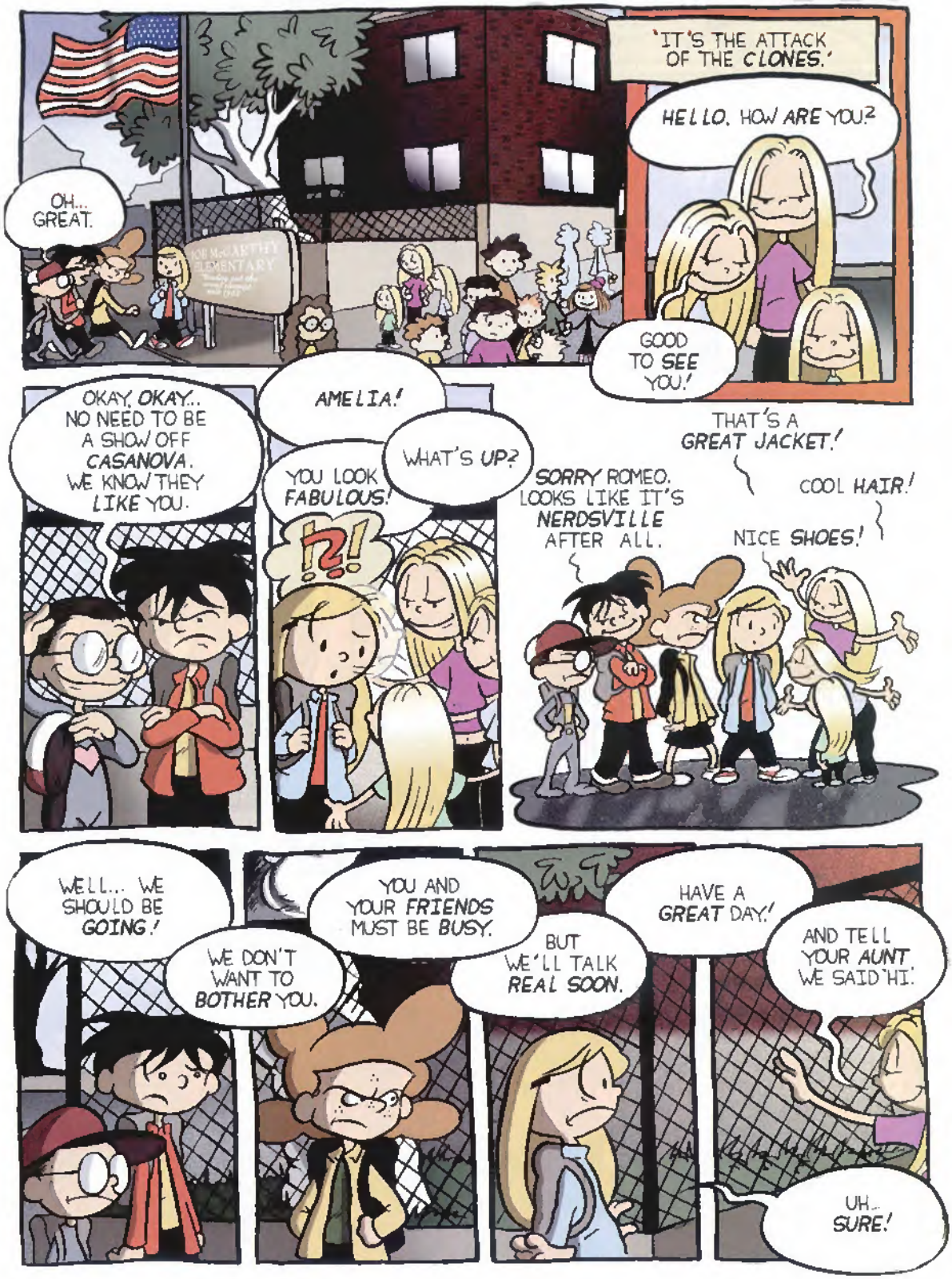
AMELIA RULES NO.6 IS ©2002 JIMMY GOWNLEY. Published by Renaissance Press. No portion of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted by any means or in any form without written permission from the copyright holder. Questions or comments? E-mail us through our website RENPRESS.COM

Printed in Canada


AMELIA
Rules!
by Jimmy Gownley
THIS IS TANNER'S BOOK FROM WHEN SHE WAS LITTLE.
IT'S CUTE. FAIRY TALES ABOUT A GIRL AND HER CAT.
I WANT TO TALK ABOUT AUNT TANNER BUT IT'S HARD, 'CUZ MOST OF WHAT HAPPENED LATELY KINDA WENT OVER MY HEAD.
I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW TO START... WELL EXCEPT THE OLD WAY.
ONCE UPON A TIME, A BEAUTIFUL PRINCESS WOKE UP LATE FOR SCHOOL.
I'M NOT REALLY A PRINCESS.
HARD TO BELIEVE ISN'T IT.


I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS!
BELIEVE WHAT?
AMELIA! YOU ARE NOT TO EAVESDROP ON OTHER...
THAT'S OKAY!
IT'S TIME SHE KNOWS THE TRUTH.
WHAT YOU ARE ABOUT TO HEAR IS VERY IMPORTANT! WE LIVE IN DARK TIMES AMELIA. AN ANCIENT PROPHECY STATES THAT ONE GIRL WILL COME FORTH IN SUCH TIMES TO FIGHT THE POWERS OF EVIL.
ONLY SHE WILL HAVE THE STRENGTH AND ABILITY TO BATTLE THE DEMONS AND MONSTERS! ONLY SHE CAN SAVE THE WORLD FROM UTTER DESTRUCTION!
AMELIA... THAT GIRL IS YOU.
YOU'RE KIDDING!
NO. WE ARE TOTALLY SERIOUS.
YOUR TRAINING STARTS TODAY.
HAHAHAHAHAHAHA
THEY'RE NOT AS FUNNY AS THEY THINK THEY ARE!

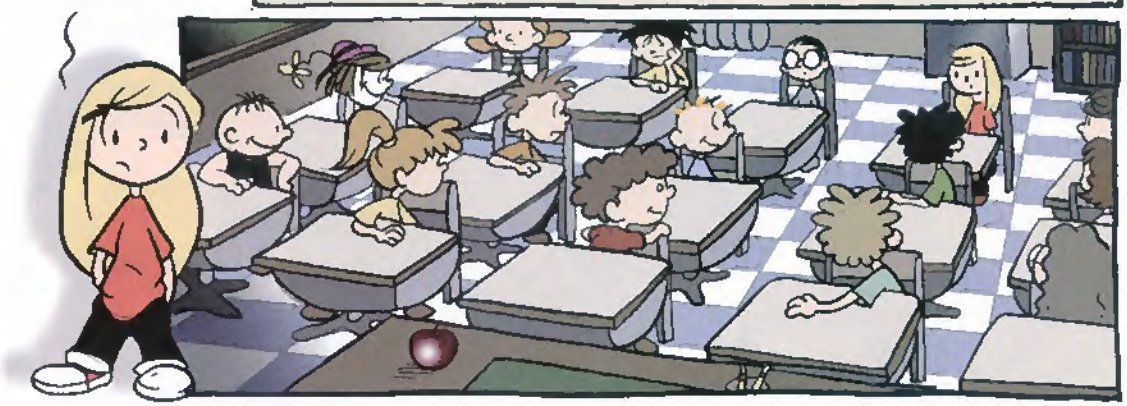
What Makes You Happy



WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?!
THOSE THREE ARE USUALLY AS PLEASANT AS A RASH!
YEAH... I MEAN WHAT COULD BE WEIRDER THAN THOSE THREE BEING FRIENDLY?
Hey Amelia!
!
BUG AND IGGY... SO WHAT DO YOU WANT!?
We JuST WanTeD tO say Hi.
We'll We Won't KeEP yOU. HaVe A NicE dAY.
and tell You're Aunt we said 'Hello'.
TWITCH TWITCH
WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?!
VERY STRANGE. IT'S LIKE STAR TREK EPISODE 39 'MIRROR MIRROR' WHERE KIRK FINDS HIMSELF IN A PARALLEL...
HEY QUIT LAUGHING THOSE SHOWS ARE BASED ON SCIENCE!
I...HEY I HEARD THAT!

THINGS WERE GETTING *PRETTY WEIRD.* EVERYONE WAS *LOOKING* AT ME.

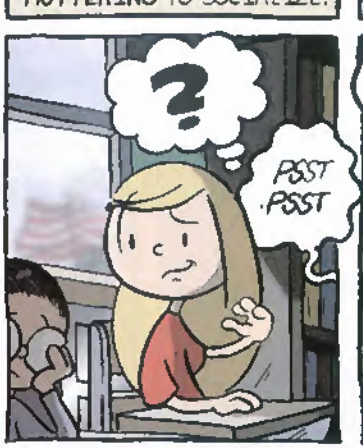
SURE, I'M USED TO PEOPLE STARTING (CUZ OF MY BEAUTY AN' ALL) BUT THIS WAS DIFFERENT. IT WAS LIKE... I DON'T KNOW... CREEPY KINDA. I FELT LIKE THE MADONNA OF MCCARTHY ELEMENTARY.

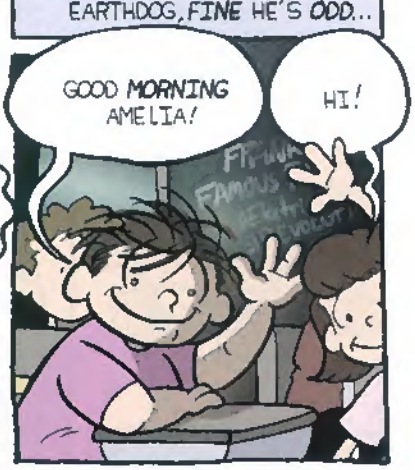


AND IT *SEEMED* LIKE IT WAS *EVERYONE.*

I MEAN *MARY VIOLET?!* NORMALLY SHE'S TOO BUSY *MUTTERING* TO SOCIALIZE.

EARTH DOG AND... WHAT'S HER NAME?... EARTHDOG, *FINE* HE'S *ODD...*

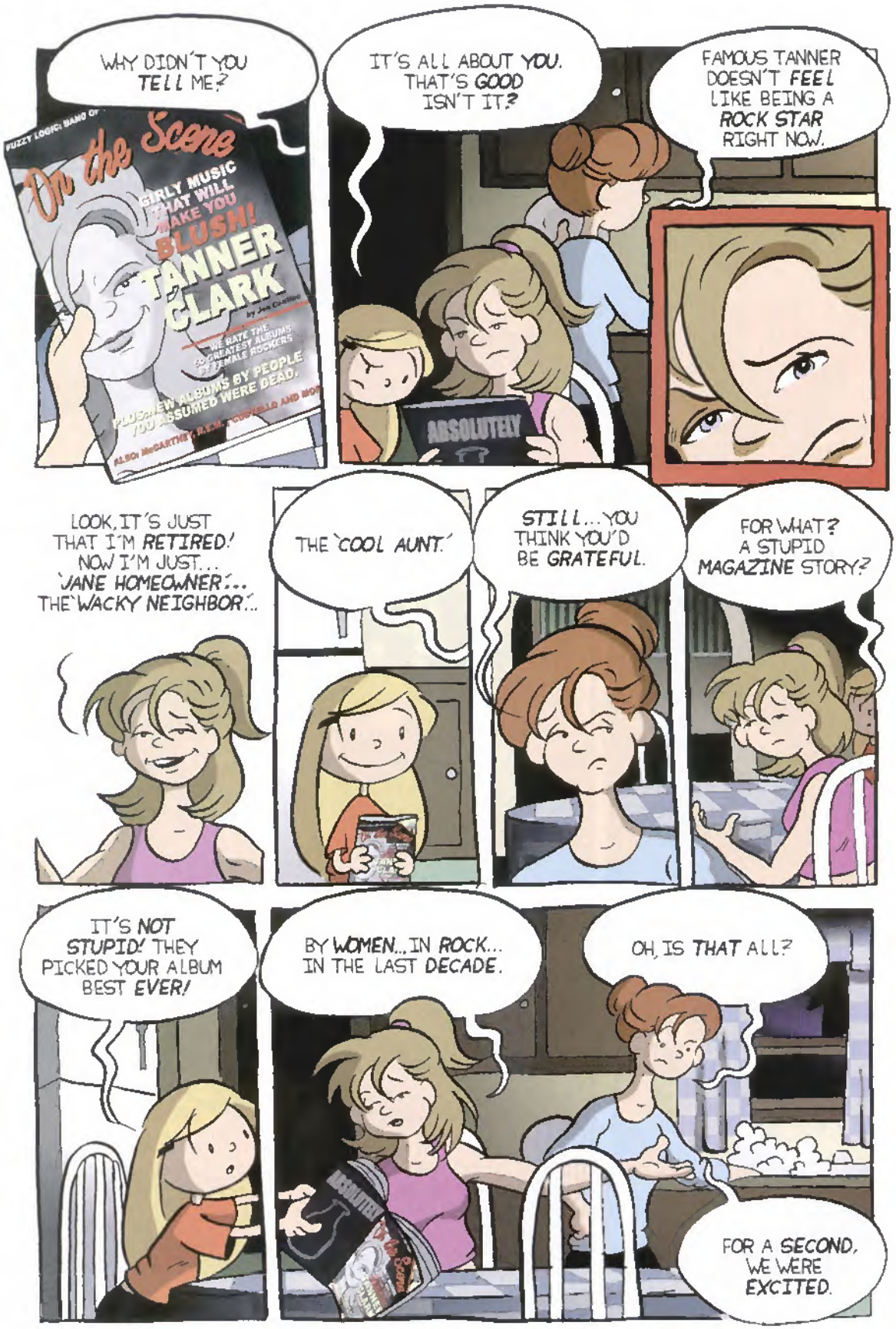


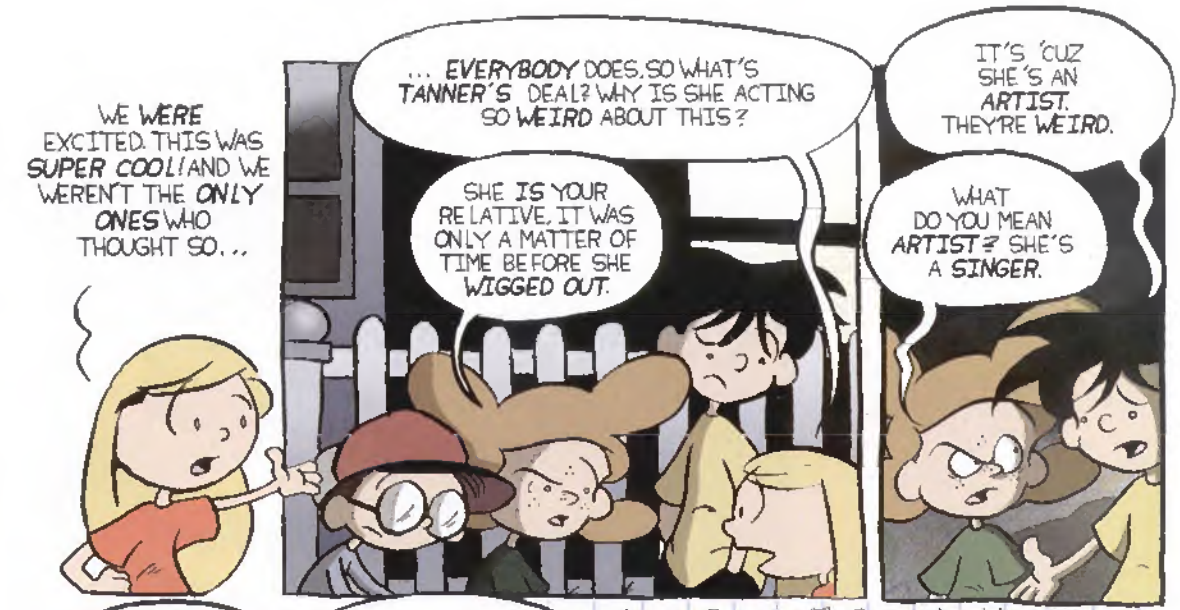


BUT WHAT WAS... *ANGIE THAT'S* HER NAME! WHAT WAS *HER* DEAL?

THEN *OWEN* GOT MY ATTENTION...

AND *SUDDENLY* I UNDERSTOOD.

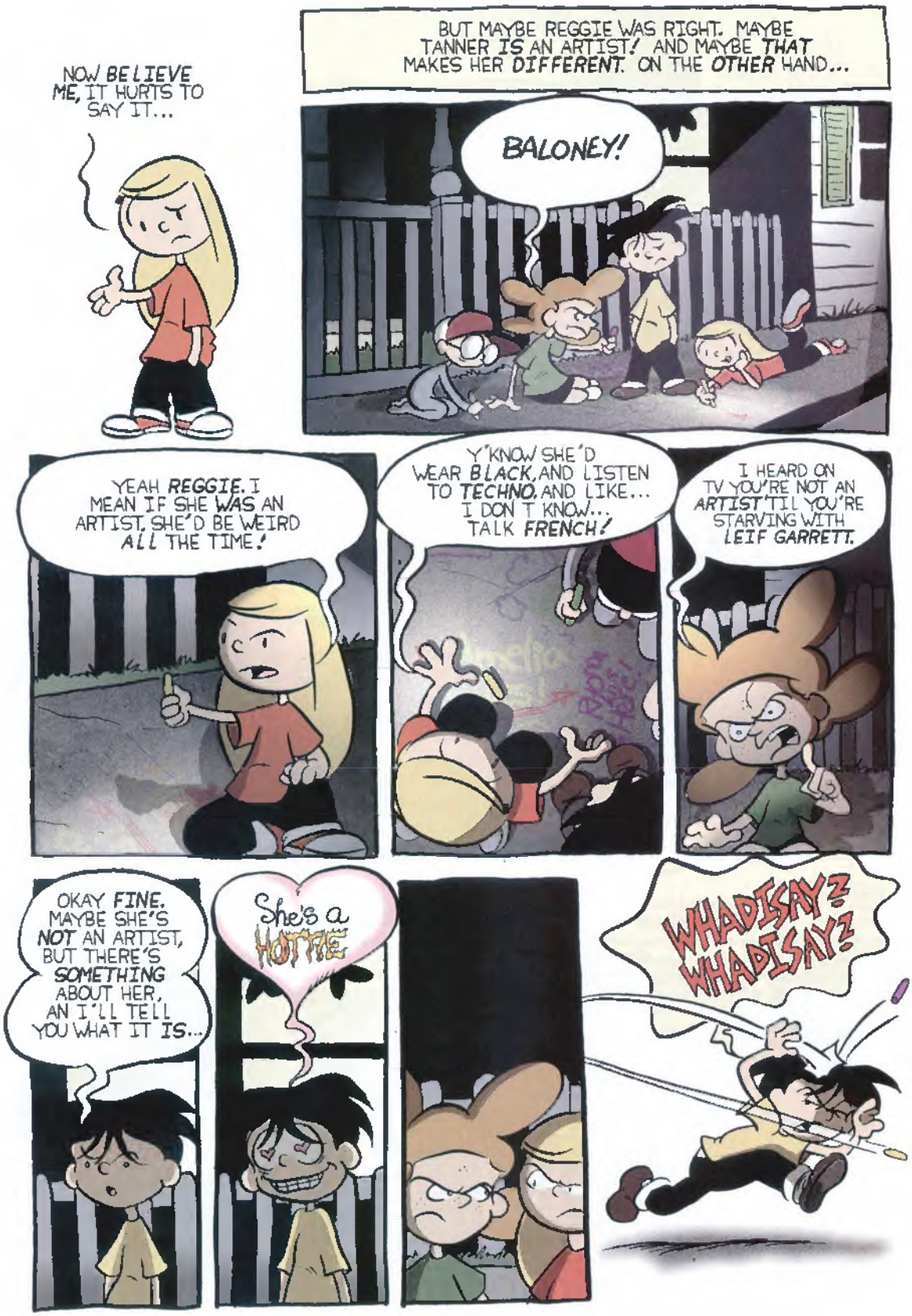

WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME?
On the Scene
GIRLY MUSIC THAT WILL MAKE YOU BLUSH!
TANNER CLARK
by Jon Collins
WE RATE THE 50 GREATEST ALBUMS BY FEMALE ROCKERS
PLUS: NEW ALBUMS BY PEOPLE YOU ASSUMED WERE DEAD.
ALSO: McCARTNEY, R.E.M., COSTELLO AND MORE
IT'S ALL ABOUT YOU. THAT'S GOOD ISN'T IT?
ABSOLUTELY
FAMOUS TANNER DOESN'T FEEL LIKE BEING A ROCK STAR RIGHT NOW.
LOOK, IT'S JUST THAT I'M RETIRED! NOW I'M JUST... 'JANE HOMEOWNER'... THE 'WACKY NEIGHBOR'...
THE 'COOL AUNT.'
STILL... YOU THINK YOU'D BE GRATEFUL.
FOR WHAT? A STUPID MAGAZINE STORY?
IT'S NOT STUPID! THEY PICKED YOUR ALBUM BEST EVER!
BY WOMEN... IN ROCK... IN THE LAST DECADE.
OH, IS THAT ALL?
FOR A SECOND, WE WERE EXCITED.

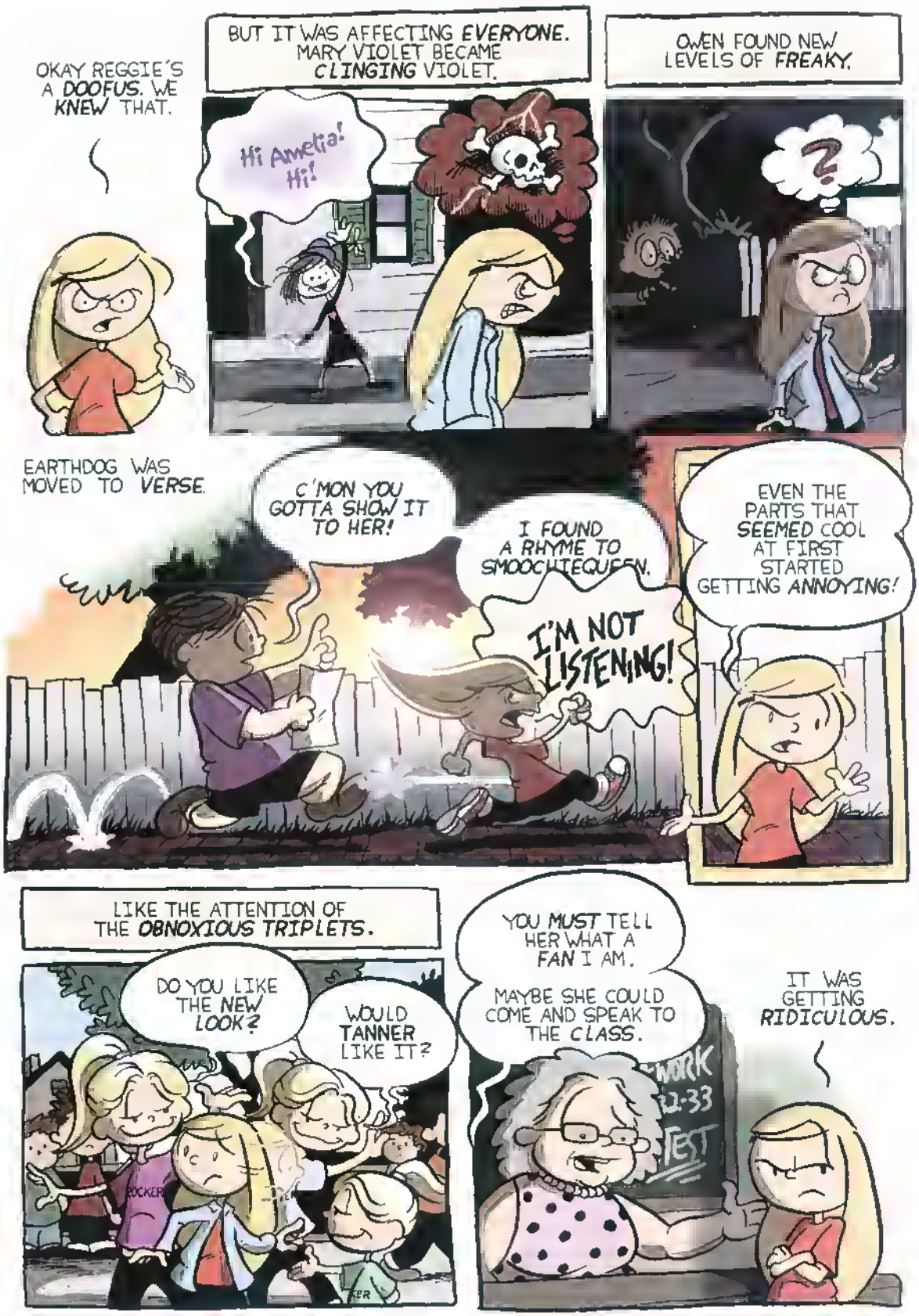


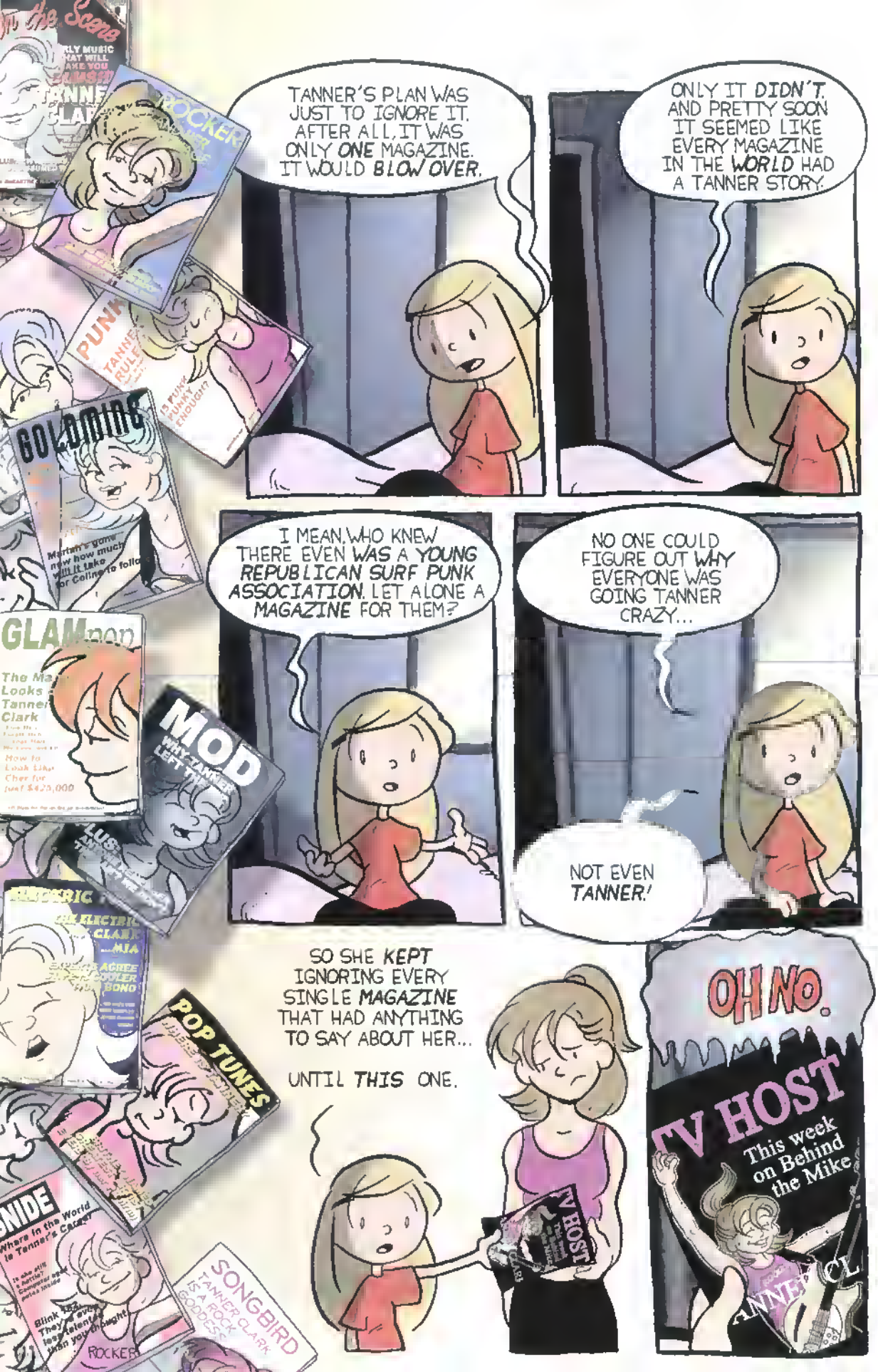
Artisticus Pretentiona (The Common Artist) An artist is an individual who excells at any activity which is considered "art" (fig. 1.) these activities can inclnde: Painting, Poetry, Sculpture, Bowling, Swearing, Drooling and essentially any field which is not "Sales" or "Comic Books." Most of these individuals fall into the trap of learning "skills." This immediately disqualifies them from the title of artist, and they become "hacks" or, if they're the loud mouthed type "art directors." A trne artiat should have no akills, and if possible the work shonld look as if it were done by a deranged toddler (fig.2).

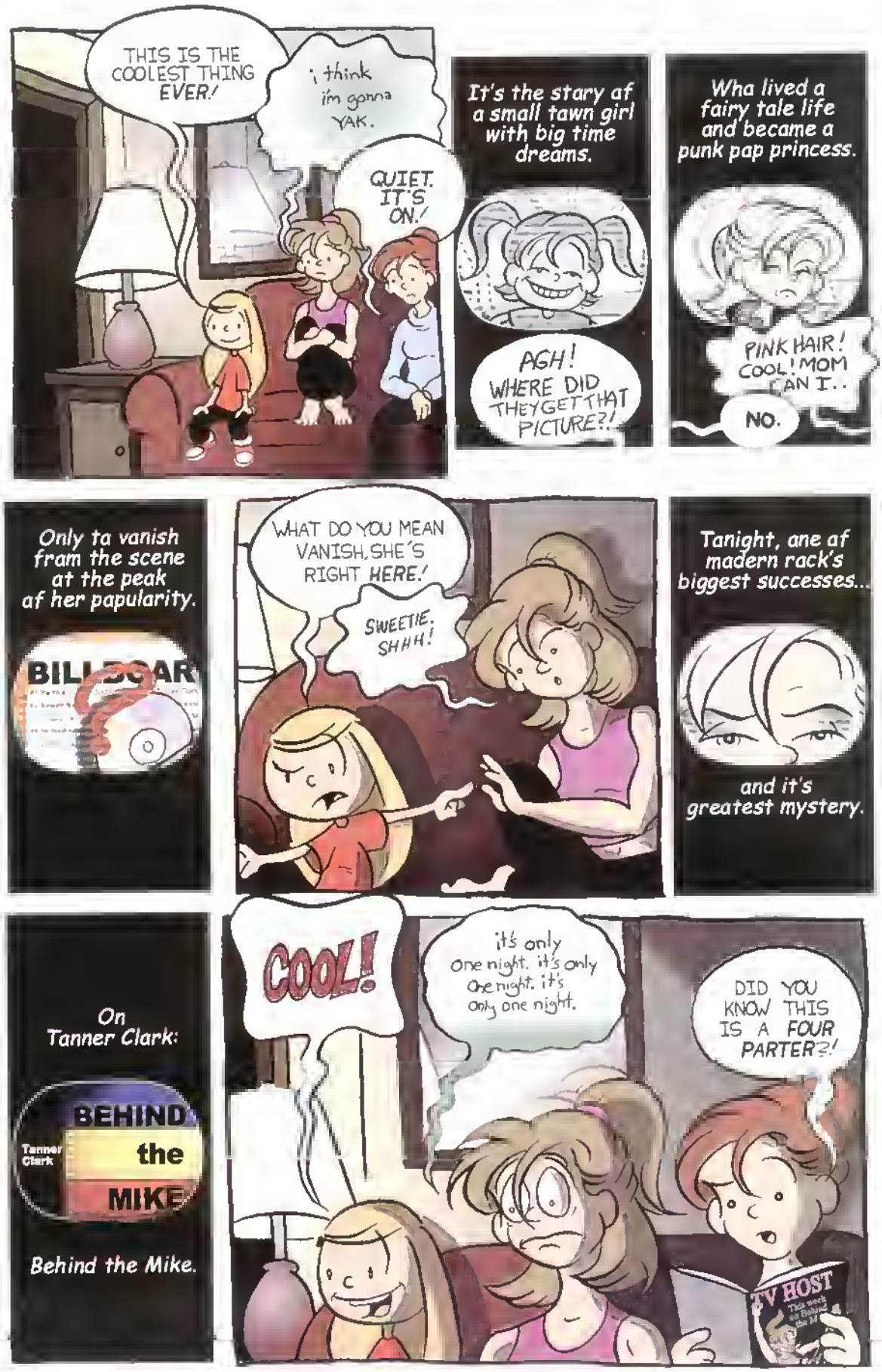
(fig 2)

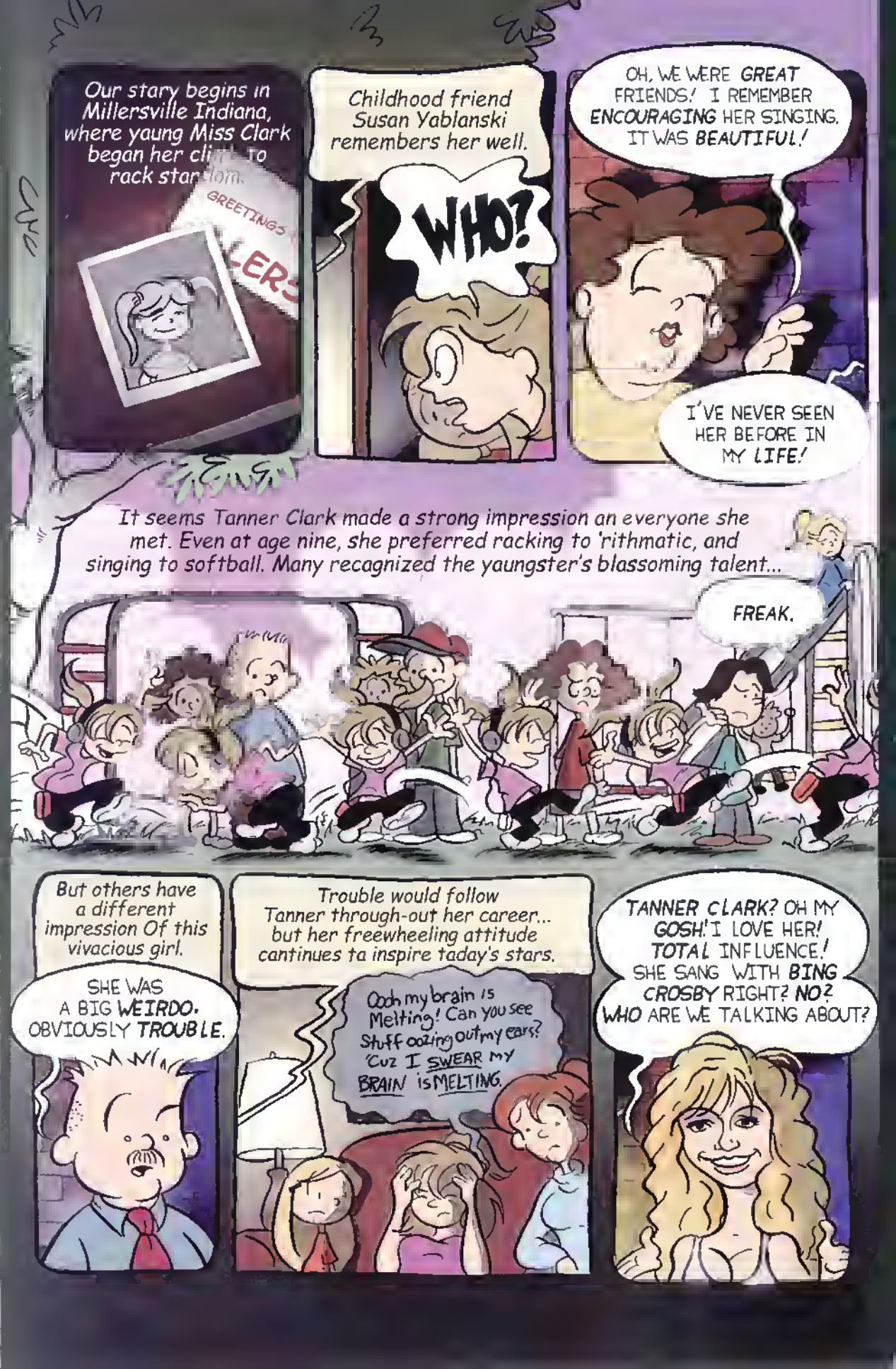
When an individual has reached the level of Artist, one of two things can occur. If that person can go on to creatn work which is loved by the masses, and he or she reaps financial rewards from the work, then they become "sell outs" (fig 3a). This group is easy to spot, as they are the only male artists ever to be seen with girls. Or, the artist might be lucky and receive no credit, money, success or attention, thereby guaranteeing themselves recognition aa a "great artist" (fig3b). For these fortunate few, the only step left is to be declared a genius. This is easily accomplished by dying a stupid preventable death, or severing a body part and sending it to a loved one (fig4).


NOW BELIEVE ME, IT HURTS TO SAY IT...
BUT MAYBE REGGIE WAS RIGHT. MAYBE TANNER IS AN ARTIST! AND MAYBE THAT MAKES HER DIFFERENT. ON THE OTHER HAND...
BALONEY!
YEAH REGGIE. I MEAN IF SHE WAS AN ARTIST, SHE'D BE WEIRD ALL THE TIME!
Y'KNOW SHE'D WEAR BLACK, AND LISTEN TO TECHNO, AND LIKE... I DON'T KNOW... TALK FRENCH!
I HEARD ON TV YOU'RE NOT AN ARTIST 'TIL YOU'RE STARVING WITH LEIF GARRETT.
OKAY FINE. MAYBE SHE'S NOT AN ARTIST, BUT THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT HER, AN I'LL TELL YOU WHAT IT IS...
She's a HOTTIE
WHADISAY? WHADISAY?


OKAY REGGIE'S A DOOFUS. WE KNEW THAT.
BUT IT WAS AFFECTING EVERYONE. MARY VIOLET BECAME CLINGING VIOLET.
Hi Amelia! Hi!
OWEN FOUND NEW LEVELS OF FREAKY.
?
EARTHDOG WAS MOVED TO VERSE.
C'MON YOU GOTTA SHOW IT TO HER!
I FOUND A RHYME TO SMOOCHIEQUEEN.
I'M NOT LISTENING!
EVEN THE PARTS THAT SEEMED COOL AT FIRST STARTED GETTING ANNOYING!
LIKE THE ATTENTION OF THE OBNOXIOUS TRIPLETS.
DO YOU LIKE THE NEW LOOK?
WOULD TANNER LIKE IT?
ROCKER
YOU MUST TELL HER WHAT A FAN I AM.
MAYBE SHE COULD COME AND SPEAK TO THE CLASS.
WORK
12-33
TEST
IT WAS GETTING RIDICULOUS.


TANNER'S PLAN WAS JUST TO IGNORE IT. AFTER ALL, IT WAS ONLY ONE MAGAZINE. IT WOULD BLOW OVER.
ONLY IT DIDN'T. AND PRETTY SOON IT SEEMED LIKE EVERY MAGAZINE IN THE WORLD HAD A TANNER STORY.
I MEAN, WHO KNEW THERE EVEN WAS A YOUNG REPUBLICAN SURF PUNK ASSOCIATION. LET ALONE A MAGAZINE FOR THEM?
NO ONE COULD FIGURE OUT WHY EVERYONE WAS GOING TANNER CRAZY...
NOT EVEN TANNER!
SO SHE KEPT IGNORING EVERY SINGLE MAGAZINE THAT HAD ANYTHING TO SAY ABOUT HER...
UNTIL THIS ONE.
OH NO.
TV HOST
This week on Behind the Mike
ROCKER
PUNK
GOLOMING
GLAMnon
MOD
POP TUNES
SONGBIRD
TANNER CLARK IS A ROCK GODDESS!


THIS IS THE COOLEST THING EVER!
i think im gonna YAK.
QUIET. IT'S ON.!
It's the story of a small town girl with big time dreams.
AGH! WHERE DID THEY GET THAT PICTURE?!
Who lived a fairy tale life and became a punk pop princess.
PINK HAIR! COOL! MOM CAN I..
NO.
Only to vanish from the scene at the peak of her popularity.
BILLBOARD
WHAT DO YOU MEAN VANISH, SHE'S RIGHT HERE!
SWEETIE. SHHH!
Tonight, one of modern rock's biggest successes...
and it's greatest mystery.
On Tanner Clark:
Tanner Clark
BEHIND the MIKE
Behind the Mike.
COOL!
it's only one night. it's only one night. it's only one night.
DID YOU KNOW THIS IS A FOUR PARTER?!
TV HOST


Our stary begins in Millersville Indiana, where yaung Miss Clark began her cli[illegible] to rack star[illegible]dom.
GREETINGS
Childhood friend Susan Yablanski remembers her well.
WHO?
OH, WE WERE GREAT FRIENDS! I REMEMBER ENCOURAGING HER SINGING. IT WAS BEAUTIFUL!
I'VE NEVER SEEN HER BEFORE IN MY LIFE!
It seems Tanner Clark made a strong impression an everyone she met. Even at age nine, she preferred racking to 'rithmatic, and singing to softball. Many recagnized the yaungster's blassoming talent...
FREAK.
But others have a different impression Of this vivacious girl.
SHE WAS A BIG WEIRDO. OBVIOUSLY TROUBLE.
Trouble would follow Tanner through-out her career... but her freewheeling attitude cantinues ta inspire taday's stars.
Oooh my brain is Melting! Can you see Stuff oozing out my ears? 'Cuz I SWEAR my BRAIN is MELTING.
TANNER CLARK? OH MY GOSH! I LOVE HER! TOTAL INFLUENCE! SHE SANG WITH BING CROSBY RIGHT? NO? WHO ARE WE TALKING ABOUT?

IT SEEMED LIKE **EVERYONE** WAS WATCHING THE SHOW. WHEN SOMETHING WAS MENTIONED ON TV, LIKE **THIS**:

Going through an awkward period she would later dub "The Ghastly Years", gave Tanner the first taste of isolation which would later inform so[illegible]e, "Yo[illegible] D[illegible]dn't Love Me (When I La[illegible]ed [illegible]e Bas[illegible]). She emerged from thi[illegible] a beautiful young lady, ready to take on the world.

IT WAS **ALL** PEOPLE WANTED TO **TALK** TO ME ABOUT. I WAS INSTANTLY **COOL** AGAIN!

SHE ASKS ME FOR **BEAUTY** TIPS **FASHION** ADVICE STUFF LIKE **THAT**.

BUT I GUESS FROM WATCHING THE SHOW, THE KIDS WEREN'T THE **ONLY** ONES **STARSTRUCK**!

MEETING HER INSPIRED ME TO **BATHE**.

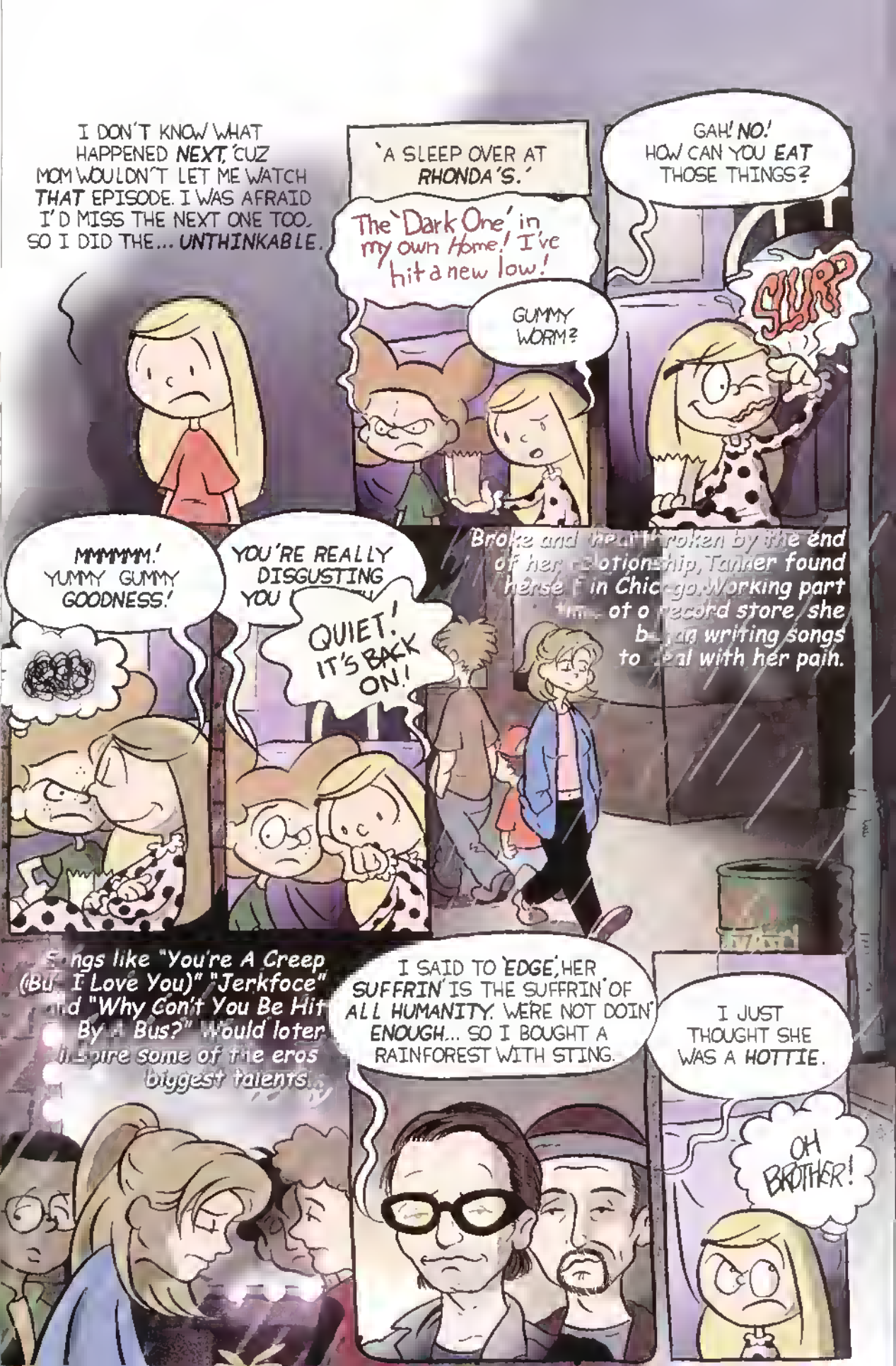
BY WEDNESDAY EVEN **RHONDA** WAS ON THE BANDWAGON...

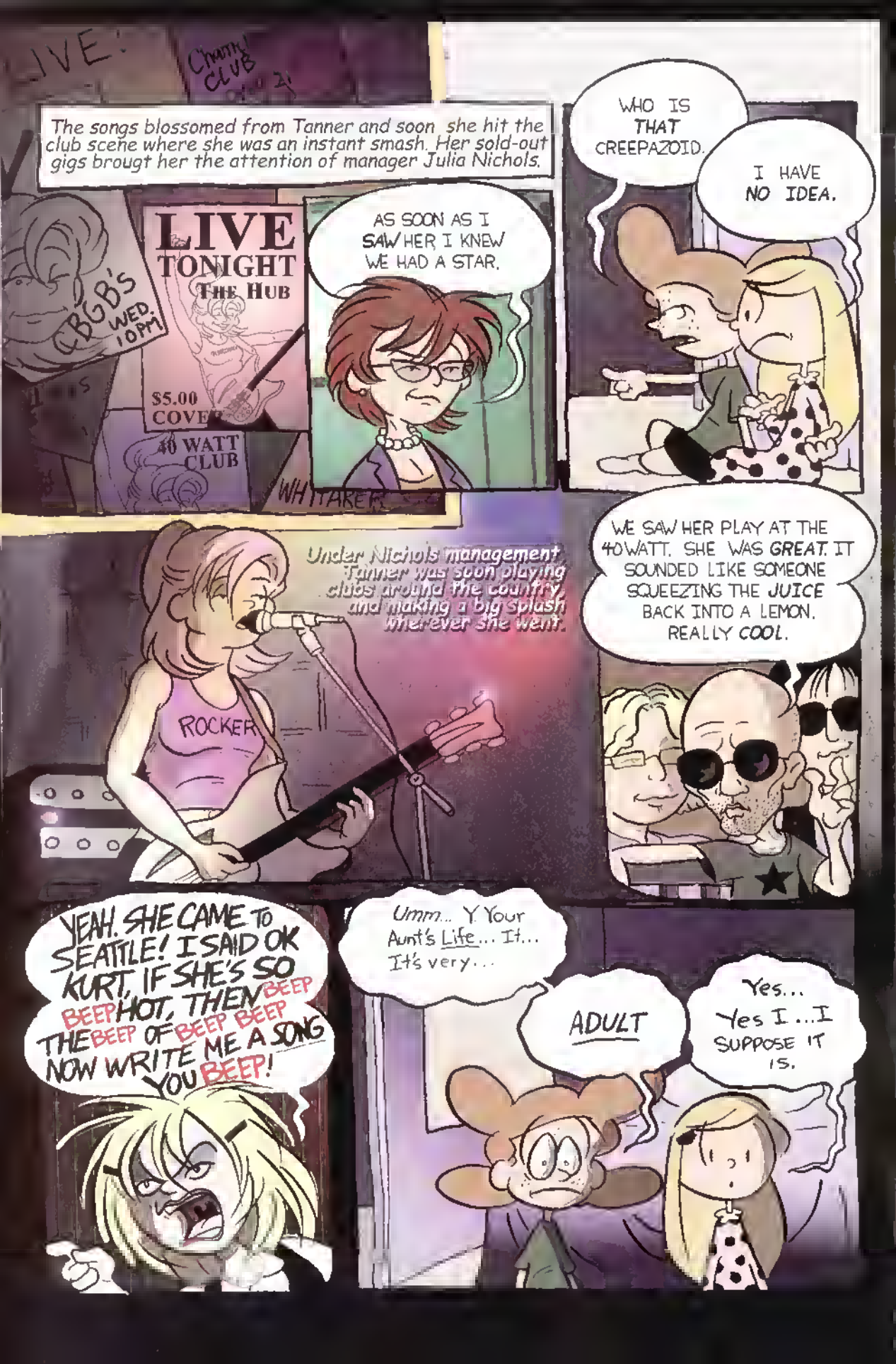
YEAH. SOMETIMES I BRING MY RECORDER OVER AND WE **JAM**.

Despite actively hating school and a near allergic reaction to homework, Tanner succeeded spectacularly and received scholarships from many universities. Defying her family's wishes, Tanner spurned these offers and struck out for an NYC art school.

And her Destiny...

Tanner flipped for life in the big city, throwing herself into the art and music scenes, and also falling hard for another student, sculptor Ernie Binghamton. Within six months of arriving, Tanner dropped out of school and followed Ernie to LA. Thus beginning what she would later refer to as her "Last Years." Things were good now, but the storm was approaching.


I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED NEXT, 'CUZ MOM WOULDN'T LET ME WATCH THAT EPISODE. I WAS AFRAID I'D MISS THE NEXT ONE TOO, SO I DID THE... UNTHINKABLE.
'A SLEEP OVER AT RHONDA'S.'
The 'Dark One' in my own Home! I've hit a new low!
GUMMY WORM?
GAH! NO! HOW CAN YOU EAT THOSE THINGS?
SLURP
MMMMM! YUMMY GUMMY GOODNESS!
YOU'RE REALLY DISGUSTING YOU
QUIET! IT'S BACK ON!
Broke and heartbroken by the end of her relationship, Tanner found herself in Chicago. Working part time at a record store, she began writing songs to deal with her pain.
Songs like "You're A Creep (But I Love You)" "Jerkface" and "Why Can't You Be Hit By A Bus?" would later inspire some of the eros biggest talents...
I SAID TO 'EDGE,' HER SUFFRIN' IS THE SUFFRIN' OF ALL HUMANITY. WE'RE NOT DOIN' ENOUGH... SO I BOUGHT A RAINFOREST WITH STING.
I JUST THOUGHT SHE WAS A HOTTIE.
OH BROTHER!


LIVE!
CBGB's CLUB
The songs blossomed from Tanner and soon she hit the club scene where she was an instant smash. Her sold-out gigs brougt her the attention of manager Julia Nichols.
LIVE TONIGHT THE HUB
CBGB's WED. 10PM
$5.00 COVER
40 WATT CLUB
WHITAKER
AS SOON AS I SAW HER, I KNEW WE HAD A STAR.
WHO IS THAT CREEPAZOID.
I HAVE NO IDEA.
Under Nichols management Tanner was soon playing clubs around the country, and making a big splash wherever she went.
ROCKER
WE SAW HER PLAY AT THE 40 WATT. SHE WAS GREAT. IT SOUNDED LIKE SOMEONE SQUEEZING THE JUICE BACK INTO A LEMON. REALLY COOL.
YEAH. SHE CAME TO SEATTLE! I SAID OK KURT, IF SHE'S SO BEEP HOT, THEN BEEP THE BEEP OF BEEP BEEP NOW WRITE ME A SONG YOU BEEP!
Umm... Y Your Aunt's Life... It... It's very...
ADULT
Yes... Yes I...I SUPPOSE IT IS.

I GUESS MOM FIGURED THE LAST EPISODE WOULD BE *TAME*, SO SHE LET ME WATCH IT AT *HOME*. NOT THAT ANY OF US GOT TO *SEE* MUCH ANYWAY.

Nichols was a master of promotion, and Tanner's Debut Single "Aberdeen Prom Queen" was already in the top 20 when her album "Broken Record" hit the shelves. It looked like the beginning of a long pop reign, but then, just days after the release of "Broken Record", Tanner Clark cancelled her tour stopped further recording, and vanished from the music scene entirely.

BROKEN RECORD

NIRVANA PEARL JAM SMASHING PUMPKINS

Rolling Stone

ALT-COUNTRY WI... VICTORIA WILLIAMS

ALT SIT COM... JERRY SEINFEL...

BROKEN R...

IT WAS A REAL *SHOCK*. I DIDN'T SEE IT COMING. NO ONE KNOWS *WHY* SHE DID WHAT SHE DID, BUT I *HOPE* TO *WORK* WITH HER AGAIN.

YOU DO TOO KNOW WHY, YOU... YOU... YOU... NERDYBUTTBRAINFACE!

:SIGH: YA KNOW, I COULD USE BETTER *WORDS* IF *YOU* WEREN'T HERE.

SORRY.

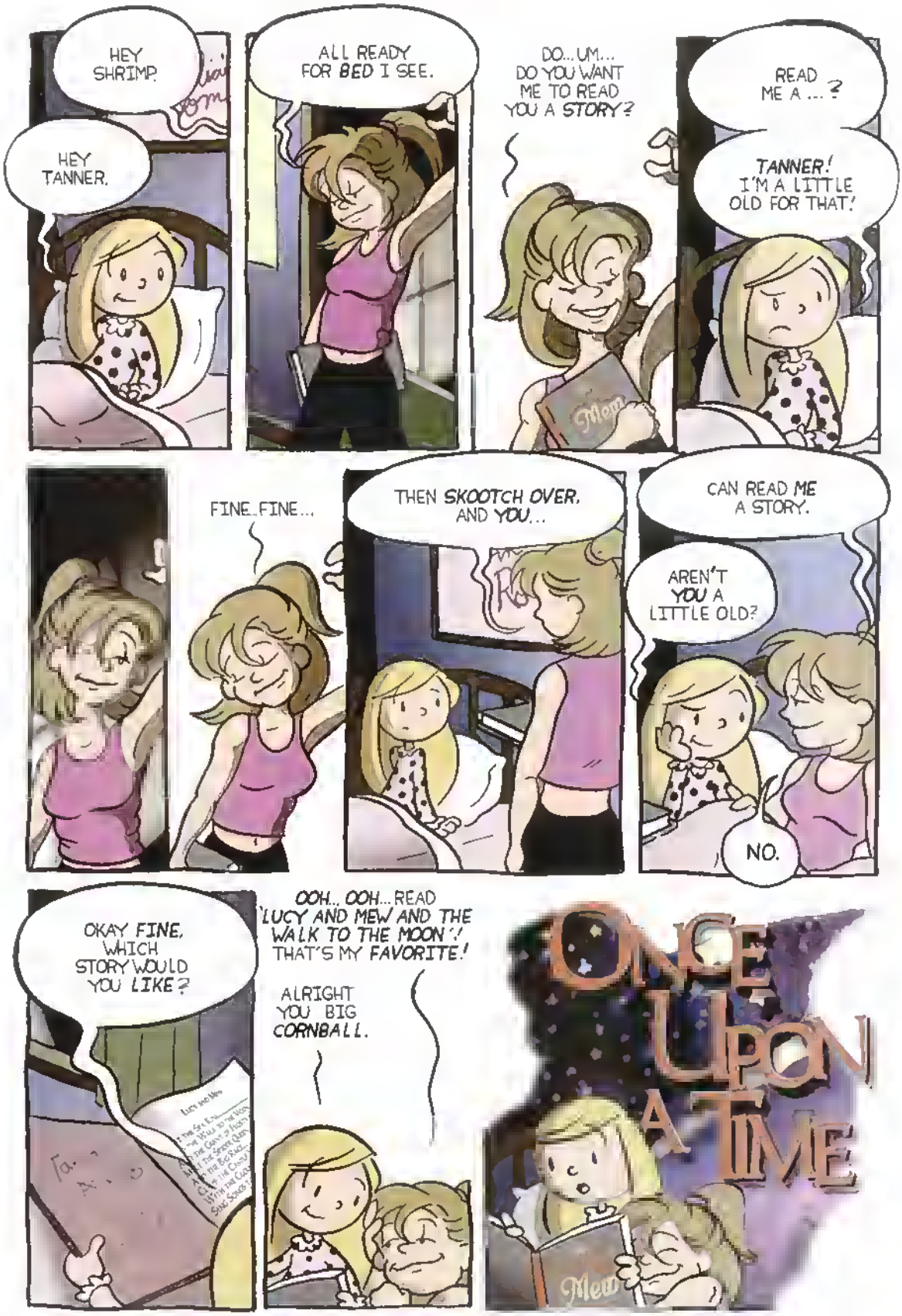
Even though her time in the spotlight was brief, her influence was strong, and her peers remember her fondly.

THE LAST TIME I SAW HER, SHE SAID, 'ALANIS IN YOUR NEXT VIDEO YOU SHOULD BE *NAKED*.' I REALIZE *NOW* SHE WAS *KIDDING*.

Oh of *COURSE* I was kidding you *DUMB*... OOOOOH!

CLICK

I WENT UP TO BED, AND LAYED THERE FOR A WHILE LISTENING TO TANNER USE WORDS LESS *CREATIVE* THAN *'NERDYBUTTBRAINFACE.'*


HEY SHRIMP.
HEY TANNER.
ALL READY FOR BED I SEE.
DO...UM... DO YOU WANT ME TO READ YOU A STORY?
READ ME A ...?
TANNER! I'M A LITTLE OLD FOR THAT!
FINE...FINE...
THEN SKOOTCH OVER, AND YOU...
CAN READ ME A STORY.
AREN'T YOU A LITTLE OLD?
NO.
OKAY FINE, WHICH STORY WOULD YOU LIKE?
OOH.. OOH... READ 'LUCY AND MEW AND THE WALK TO THE MOON'! THAT'S MY FAVORITE!
ALRIGHT YOU BIG CORNBALL.
ONCE UPON A TIME
Mew

The Walk to the Moon

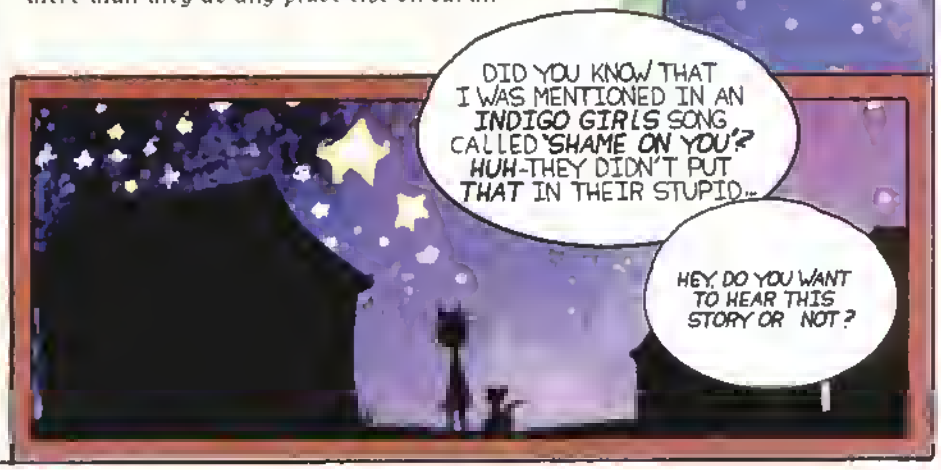
By Beth Ellen Welch

Once upon a time there was a poor young girl named Lucy, who lived with a cat named Mew. Lucy and Mew lived in a very small house in a very small village in an enormous country which probably never existed, but which seemed quite nice. Lucy had no parents, and so she relied on Mew to care for her.

This was not a problem, for Mew was a talented cat and earned more than many of the men in the village, and even as much as a few of the more prominent sheep. In exchange for her keep, Lucy kept the house tidy, the food and water dishes full, and the litter box clean. But Lucy was bored.

"There's nothing ever to do in this village," she complained to Mew. "I've heard other girls speak of villages with many dwellings under one roof, staircases that carry you magically from floor to floor, merchants with goods from far away lands. Shops of all kinds of selling fragrances, literature, garments, and equipment for sport. A common area where people may sample morsels and delicacies from all the world over. And outside yet another dining hall, set under glorious, illuminated golden arches."

"My business dealings have taken me to such villages," said Mew. "The people seem no happier there than they do any place else on earth."



It was then that Lucy had a brilliant idea.

"Why w[illegible]at about off the earth?" she cried. "W[illegible]out the village on the moon!" Mew had to admit that he had never heard of such villages, but still he was intrigued. "I imagine a cat with my skills in accounting could make as good a living o[illegible] moon as in this village," he said. [illegible]d so Lucy and [illegible] decided to walk to the moon.

[illegible]e plan was simple. Wait until the next rainbow app[illegible] walk to the top, and t[illegible]en jump the remaining distance to the moon. "A b[illegible]iant plan," said Me[illegible]t's a two de[illegible]o o[illegible] had thoug[illegible]o[illegible] b[illegible]o[illegible]."

The two travelers took nothing with them save Lucy's umbrella, and a large roll of cash. Everything they needed, they reasoned, they would get in the wondrous moon village.

The trip was longer than they expected and Mew was very cross at Lucy for not having thought to bring even a small can of tuna. Lucy's legs got tired, but she sustained herself by thinking of the wonders the moon villages were sure to contain.

Finally, the top of the rainbow was reached. The leap was taken, and Lucy and Mew landed on the moon. They were so happy to have arrived that they danced as only an orphan girl and her benefactor cat can dance.

Unfortunately, after celebrating, they realized there was not a village in sight. "I'm sure they're here," said Lucy. "We just need to explore a bit."

But after hours and days and weeks of exploring, all Lucy and Mew had found were some flags, a sculpture, and a carriage (but no horse).

"This is terrible!" cried Lucy. "We're completely alone!"

"We're never alone if we have each other," said Mew.

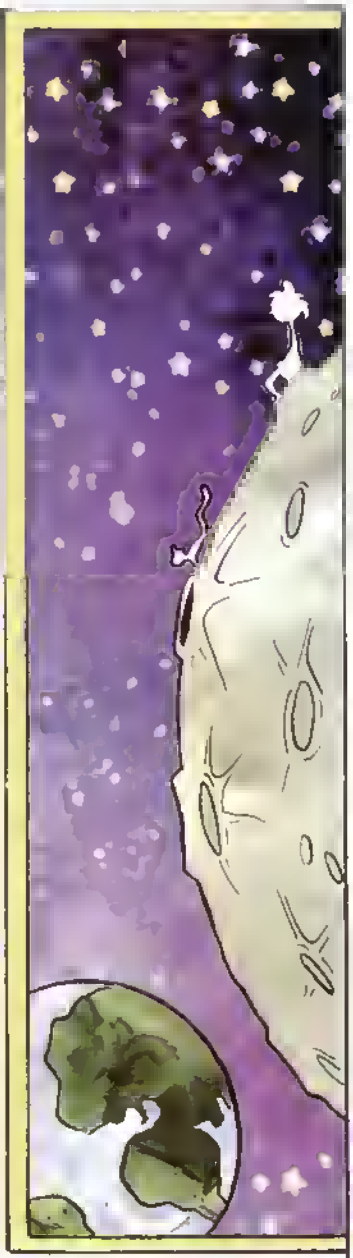
"Oh shut up," said Lucy.

With nothing to do but sit on the rim of a crater and stare at the Earth, Lucy and Mew both became melancholy.

"I miss having a home to clean and dishes to fill and well...maybe not the litterbox," said Lucy.

I'm just glad that cheese thing turned out to be true," said Mew. "Otherwise we would have starved.

Lucy decided that enough was enough and grabbing Mew with one hand and her umbrella with the other, she leapt off the edge of the moon.



Lucy opened her umbrella and used it to slow their fall, so they drifted down to earth in just a little under four days.

They landed back in the square of the very village they had left so long ago, and it seemed as if it had not changed at all.

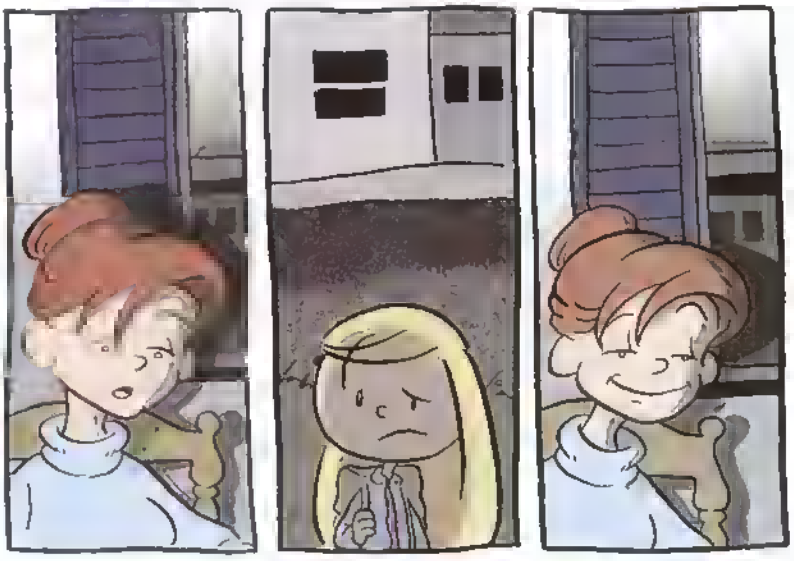
"You know," Lucy said. "Before we left, I wanted nothing more than to live the rest of my life on the moon, but now that we're back, I can't imagine why we ever left."

'THE END.'
HMMPH. THERE'S A TRUE THING ADULTS DON'T WANT KIDS TO KNOW.'
WANTING SOMETHING IS ALWAYS BETTER THAN HAVING IT.
REALLY? HMMMM..
UNEMPLOYMENT
THE McBRIDES
YEAH... I CAN SEE...
TANNER?
G'NIGHT.
'CLICK'

I COULDN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT THE *SHOW*, AND WHY TANNER QUIT SINGING. IT WASN'T LIKE HER TO BE A *QUITER*! SO THE NEXT DAY AFTER SCHOOL, I DECIDED TO TRY TO WEASEL SOME INFO OUT OF *MOM*.

I WAS *SURPRISED* 'CUZ MOM SEEMED KINDA *HAPPY* TO TALK ABOUT IT. SHE TOLD ME THAT WHEN TANNER WAS OUT IN CALIFORNIA, AND *LATER* WHEN SHE WAS ON TOUR, THAT THEY DIDN'T REALLY *TALK MUCH*. I GUESS NO ONE THOUGHT TANNER SHOULD BE DOING WHAT SHE WAS DOING, 'CUZ SHE WAS SO SMART AND ALL.

(*PLUS* NO ONE *LIKED* THAT ERNIE CREEP.)



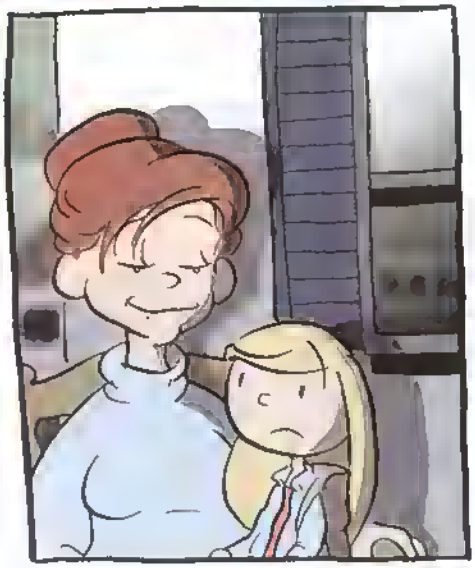
I DON'T THINK MOM HAD ANY *REAL* IDEA WHY TANNER QUIT SINGING. WHEN I *ASKED* HER ABOUT IT, ALL SHE SAID WAS THAT TANNER WAS A VERY *HONEST* PERSON, AND THAT NOT ALL THE PEOPLE SHE *DEALT* WITH WERE AS HONEST AS *SHE* IS.

MOM ALSO SAID THAT SHE DIDN'T THINK TANNER REALIZED HOW BIG A *FAN* MY *MOM* WAS. SHE SAID *SHE* UNDERSTOOD WHY TANNER WAS A SINGER EVEN BETTER THAN TANNER *HERSELF* DID.

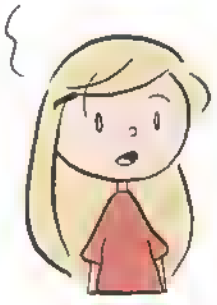
I DIDN'T REALLY UNDERSTAND WHAT SHE *MEANT*. BUT I THINK I DO *NOW*.

THEN MOM LET LOOSE WITH *THIS* BOMBSHELL; SHE HAD KEPT A COLLECTION OF *SOUVENIERS* FROM TANNER'S CAREER. MAGAZINES AND VIDEOS AND TAPES AND STUFF TANNER *HERSELF* PROBABLY DIDN'T EVEN REMEMBER. SHE SAID THAT EVEN THOUGH TANNER DIDN'T WANT TO LOOK AT THAT STUFF *NOW*, SHE WOULD *SOMEDAY*. AND THEN SHE'D REALIZE HOW *BIG A FAN* MY MOM HAD BEEN.

SHE SAID SHE HAD IT ALL IN A TRUNK IN THE *ATTIC*.



WELL, IF *YOU* WERE *ME*, WHAT WOULD *YOU* DO?

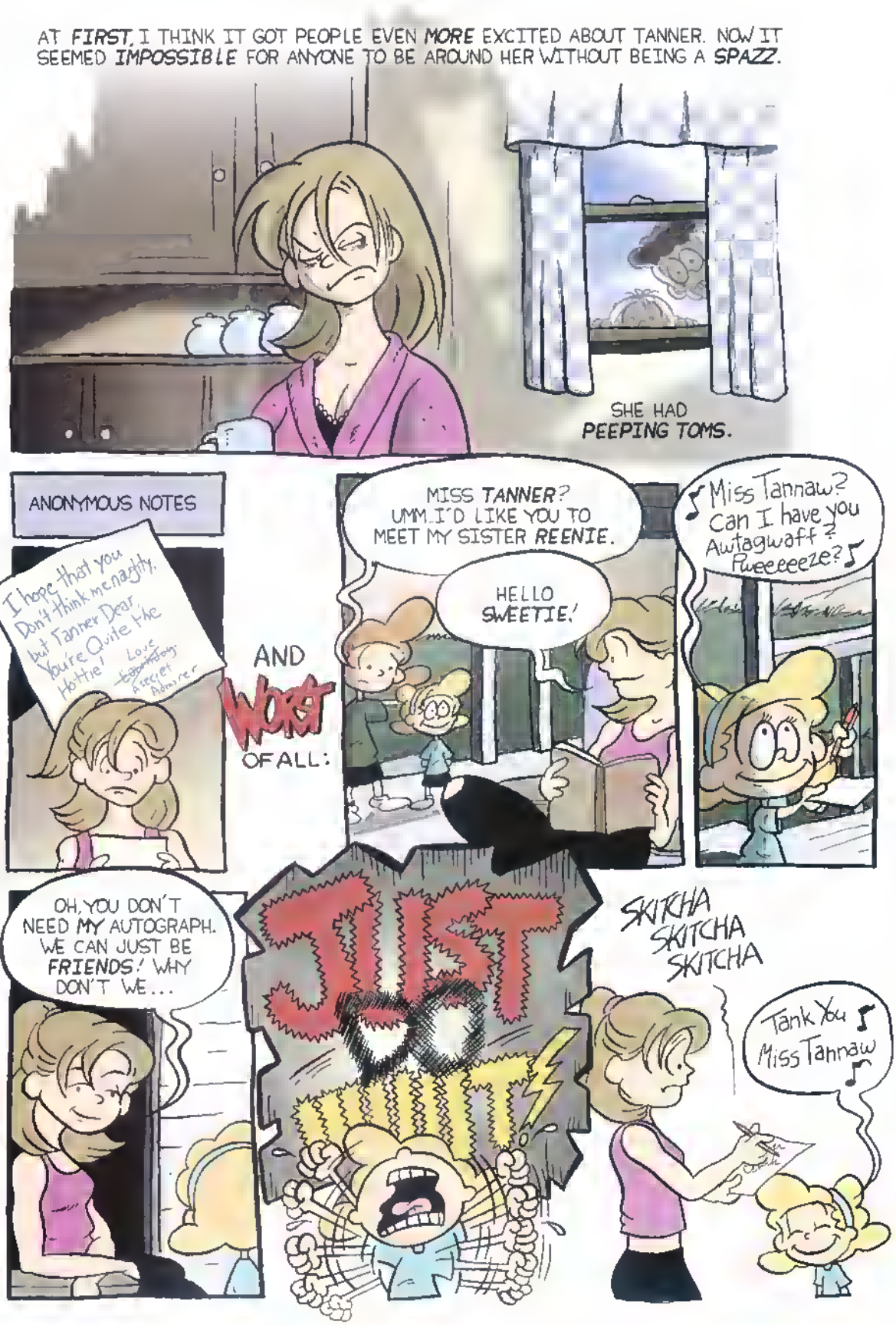


?
Once Upon a Time
DEMO

IN CONCLUSION, IF YOU SIGN WITH THE GASP BODY GUARD SERVICE, YOU'RE ENTITLED TO:
1) ROUND THE CLOCK GASP PROTECTION. (UP UNTIL BEDTIME).
2) THE FULL ATTENTION OF 50% OF THE GASP CREW.
3) THE...
WAIT A MINUTE!
WHY ONLY 50%? AREN'T I WORTH THE FULL GASP TEAM?
OH OF COURSE! OF COURSE!
IT'S JUST THAT KID LIGHTNING AND I ARE REALLY THE ELITE PART OF THE GROUP.
WE TREAT THE OTHERS LIKE CAPTAIN KIRK TREATS THOSE GUYS IN THE RED SHIRTS.
WHAT?
WHAT?!
I DON'T SEE WHAT'S SO FUNNY ABOUT THAT SHOW!
PSST
REGGIE, PAJAMAMAN. C'MERE! I GOT SOMETHING TO SHOW YOU.

IF THIS IS SUPERHERO BUSINESS YOU SHOULD REALLY USE THE 'AMAZING SIGNAL.'
I WOULD, BUT IT ROTTED IN NOVEMBER.
I FOUND THIS SONG OF TANNER'S. AND I...I THINK IT'S DIRTY.'
NO WAY!
I'M NOT SURE I ONLY PLAYED IT ONCE. AND I DIDN'T REALLY GET IT.
COOL! WE GOT A SI... RH
NO!
WE CAN'T TELL ANYONE. THIS SONG ISN'T ON HER RECORD. I FOUND IT IN THE ATTIC. SHE PROBABLY DOESN'T WANT ANYONE TO HEAR IT.'
FINE. WE SWEAR IT AS SUPERHEROES. NO VILLIAN ON EARTH COULD MAKE US TELL.
HELLO!
SO, WHAT ARE YOU GUYS TALKING ABOUT?
AMELIA FOUND A SONG OF TANNER'S AND NOBODY EVER HEARD IT AND IT'S REALLY REALLY DIRTY AT LEAST WE THINK BUT SHE'S NOT SURE CUZ IT'S FOR GROWNUPS AND WE CAN'T TELL ANYONE OR PLAY IT FOR ANYONE CUZ IT'S A SECRET.'
COOL. CAN WE HEAR IT?
of course!
SUPERHERO OATHS JUST DON'T MEAN WHAT THEY USED TO.

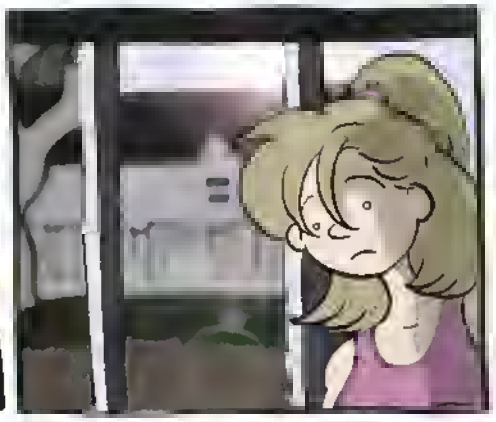
HMMM... IT STARTED TO RAIN AGAIN. IT'S BEEN DOING THAT LATELY.
OH, SO ANYWAY... I WANTED TO KILL REGGIE,
I KNEW THOSE THREE WOULDN'T KEEP THEIR TRAPS SHUT!
AND SURE ENOUGH... BY SCHOOL MONDAY...
THE CAT WAS OUT OF THE BAG.
EVEN THOUGH ALMOST NO ONE HEARD THE SONG THEMSELVES...
IT DIDN'T STOP EVERYONE FROM TALKING ABOUT IT.
DID YOU HEAR IT?
MAYBE. DID YOU?
I DIDN'T HEAR IT, BUT I HEARD ABOUT IT.
DID YOU HEAR ABOUT IT?
I HEARD PEOPLE ARE TALKING.
I NEVER HEAR ANYTHING!
AND EVERYONE WAS SHOCKED BY WHAT THEY NEVER HEARD.
OF COURSE, WE DID STUPIDLY PLAY IT FOR SOME PEOPLE...
HOLEEEEE MOLEEEEE!
I ♥ TANNER!
AND EVERYONE HAD THE SAME REACTION.
Oh My Oh My Oh My OOOOOO!
PLOP
WELL, THERE WAS ONE STUPID EXCEPTION.
I Don't GET it!
OR TWO.
SNAP SNAP SNAP


AT FIRST, I THINK IT GOT PEOPLE EVEN MORE EXCITED ABOUT TANNER. NOW IT SEEMED IMPOSSIBLE FOR ANYONE TO BE AROUND HER WITHOUT BEING A SPAZZ.
SHE HAD PEEPING TOMS.
ANONYMOUS NOTES
I hope that you Don't think me naughty, but Tanner Dear, You're Quite the Hottie! Love A secret Admirer
AND WORST OF ALL:
MISS TANNER? UMM..I'D LIKE YOU TO MEET MY SISTER REENIE.
HELLO SWEETIE!
♪ Miss Tannaw? Can I have you Awtagwaff? Pweeeeeze? ♪
OH, YOU DON'T NEED MY AUTOGRAPH. WE CAN JUST BE FRIENDS! WHY DON'T WE...
JUST
SKITCHA SKITCHA SKITCHA
Tank You ♪ Miss Tannaw ♪

REENIE, THAT WAS VERY RUDE OF YOU!

SHUT UP YA WITCH!

I THINK THAT'S WHEN I NOTICED TANNER START TO CHANGE. SEE SHE DIDN'T KNOW REENIE WAS THE PURE ESSENCE OF EVIL...

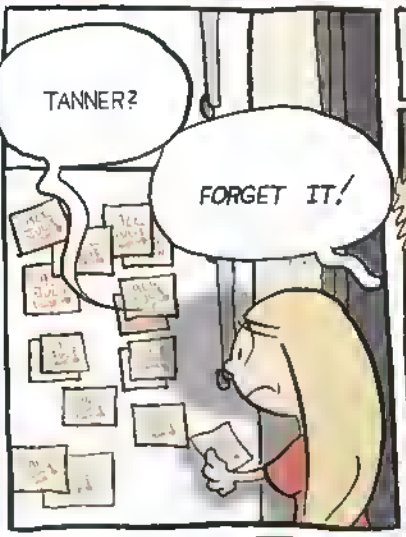


SO SHE TOOK IT PERSONALLY. LIKE MAYBE REENIE WAS A FAN, AND SHE WAS A BAD INFLUENCE.

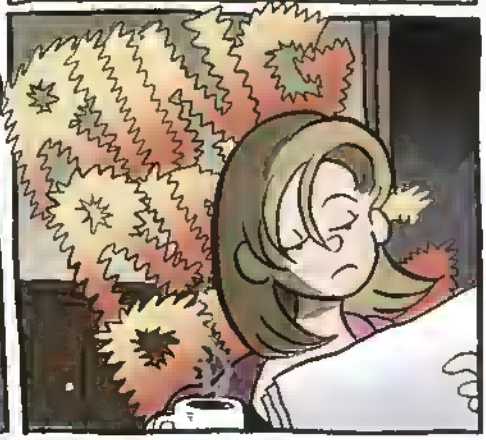
TANNER STARTED ACTING LIKE THE WEIRDO ALL THE MAGAZINES SAID SHE WAS. HER OLD MANAGER CALLED LIKE A ZILLION TIMES A DAY, AND TANNER HAD A STRANGE WAY OF DEALING WITH HER...

TANNER?

FORGET IT!



SHE DIDN'T RETURN HER MESSAGES AND SHE NEVER ANSWERED THE PHONE.



BACK WHEN ALL THIS STARTED, I BEGGED TANNER TO COME AND SPEAK TO THE CLASS LIKE MY TEACHER ASKED.

PLEASE?

PLEASE?

PLEASE?

THEN THE DAY BEFORE SHE WAS SUPPOSED TO...

I'VE HEARD THIS NEW SONG OF YOUR AUNT'S.

SHE DOESN'T NEED TO BOTHER COMING IN TOMORROW.

QUIZ TOM.

IT WOULDN'T BE APPROPRIATE.

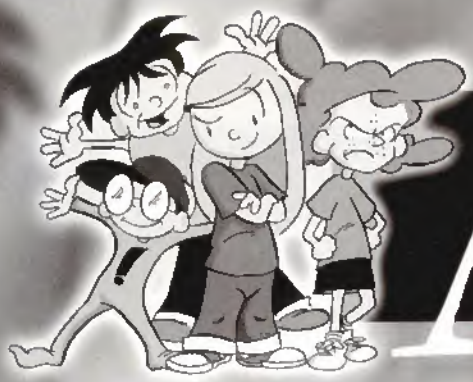
SHE COULDN'T HAVE HEARD THAT SONG. NOBODY HAD.' WELL, ALMOST NOBODY. WHAT COULD I TELL TANNER?

I DECIDED THE ONLY THING I COULD DO WAS TELL HER THE TRUTH ABOUT HOW I WENT THROUGH MOM'S STUFF AND FOUND THE TAPE, AND LET PEOPLE LISTEN TO IT.
BUT SHE WASN'T UPSET! SHE JUST KEPT YELLING; "YOU FOUND THE SONG! YOU FOUND THE SONG!"
THEN SHE RAN TO MY MOM, AND STARTED BABBLING AND HUGGING HER, AND THANKING HER FOR SAVING IT.
AND THEN SHE AGREED TO DO ONE LAST SHOW.
TANNER PICKED UP THE PHONE, AND CALLED HER OLD MANAGER.
THEN THE WEIRDEST THING HAPPENED.
I FIGURED I WAS PROBABLY STILL GONNA BE IN TROUBLE FOR SNOOPING, SO I DIDN'T EVEN ASK TO GO.
TONIGHT:
NNER CLARK
SO I WAS REALLY SURPRISED WHEN MOM SAID SHE WANTED TO TAKE ME.
SEEING TANNER'S NAME ON THE SIGN WAS SUPER COOL.

WE GOT INSIDE JUST AS TANNER TOOK THE STAGE.
THERE WERE NO OTHER MUSICIANS, AND TANNER DIDN T EVEN PICK UP HER GUITAR.
SHE JUST WALKED UP TO THE MIKE AND STARTED SINGING.
IT WAS THE SONG FROM THE TAPE! I COULDN'T BELIEVE IT!
I WAS WAITING FOR MOM TO GRAB ME AND COVER MY EARS...
BUT SHE JUST STOOD THERE LISTENING TO TANNER SING
AND THE SONG DIDN'T SOUND DIRTY ANYMORE, JUST SAD.
TANNER SOUNDED LIKE THE LONELIEST PERSON IN THE WORLD, AND THE AUDIENCE SAT THERE LIKE SHE WAS SINGING ABOUT CREAM CHEESE.
THEN WHEN THE SONG WAS OVER SHE SMILED...
AND WALKED OFF THE STAGE.

AND THAT WAS IT.
THE AUDIENCE SAT THERE FOR A WHILE, THEN THEY BOOED, THEN THEY LEFT.
AND TANNER COULDN'T HAVE CARED LESS.
OF COURSE, NO ONE TOLD ME WHAT WAS GOING ON, BUT I FIGURED OUT SOME STUFF.
I THINK TANNER QUIT BECAUSE OF THAT SONG ON THE TAPE.
I THINK IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE ON THE RECORD, AND HER MANAGER CUT IT.
IT WAS KINDA SHOCKING. I NEVER HEARD A SONG LIKE IT. BUT IT SEEMED IMPORTANT TO TANNER.
I THINK MAYBE IT WAS ABOUT ERNIE, AND HOW HE DIDN'T TREAT HER SO GOOD.

I ASKED MY MOM WHY SHE LET ME GO TO THE SHOW BUT NOT WATCH THE TV SHOW.
SHE SAID IT WAS A 'RITE OF PASSAGE.' WHATEVER THAT MEANS.
SO ANYWAY. THAT'S PRETTY MUCH THE TANNER 'TRUE HOLLYWOOD STORY.'
MAYBE NEXT TIME, WE CAN GET BACK TO WHAT'S IMPORTANT.
FIGHT SQUADRON
CLICK
TALKING ABOUT ME!



A-MAIL

PO BOX 5060 HARRISBURG PA 17110
EMAIL:JIMMYGOWNLEY@EARTHLINK.NET

Hi Mr. Gownley,

I haven't written in since I sent the link to my review to #1, and so I thought it was time to do so again.

You've managed to do something with this book that I didn't think passible, and that's to make each issue a little better than the last one. Which, since you started with a very high level of quolity, is saying something.

The way you ore able to juggle humor while deftly tackling such serious subjects as you have is nothing short of amazing. I'm amazed at how easily you are able to pull so many different emotions from your readers in each issue, be it loughter, sadness, reflection, etc.,

These characters are just so incredibly thought out, and have such distinctive voices. I feel as if I know them, and have grown to care for them all.

Many people are soying this reminds them of a modern day Peanuts, and while I can see that, it is also so clearly something uniquely its own. I'll look forward to getting the TBP so that I can pass the single issues on to other readers, as this is one comic series everyone should know about.

Please keep up the great work.

Thanks,
James Schee
via internet

Thanks far writing, James, always glad ta hear fram yau! I really enjay trying ta make each issue different fram the previaus ane. It's nat always easy ta knaw if samething new will be a success ar nat. Glad ta knaw that the series is warking far yau.

Dear Jimmy,

Congratulations on Amelia Rules! You've managed to achieve an exceptional balance of childhood concerns and problems with a sense of the fantastic and the wonderful. The characters are generolly believable (sorry - I still have o problem with Pajomaman. Not his personality, the CONCEPT of o 4th grader who is ollowed to spend all his time in PJ's). Amelio is o wonderful vehicle for the series - hip, but not too wise-beyond-her-years.

Plus, you have to love any book that throws in a line from "Tombstone Blues."

On a separate matter: Have you completely abandoned the kids from Shades of Gray? I thought it was ironic that you had to drop the book just around the time that Dawson's Creek was catching so much attention. It would have been a perfect way to attroct a crossover audience of teens and young odults who might otherwise not hove picked up a comic book might have been willing to give it a try. (I'm not comparing the two, mind you, Your story had a whole lot more heard at a WHOLE lot less titillation.)

If you ever feel like testing the woters over whether to revive Shades of Gray, please count me as one vote in favor. I miss those kids, and wonder how they're doing...

In the meantime, keep up the fine work with Amelia and her friends.

Bill Nutt
via internet

I'd lave ta get back ta Shades af Gray sameday, but Amelia is taking up all my time right naw. I'll tell yau what...raund up a thausand ar sa mare peaple like yau, and we'll be back in business tamarraw.
As far Dawsan's Creek...never heard af it.

Hello Jimmy

I have followed your work for some time but I love your new series...PERFECT.

First of all, our new book is hilarious. I really love the characters...good interaction.., great humor...I just finished reading #4 where PJ gets the doll that we would have never gotten from Amelio..and your stories really have a heart. I LOVED THAT STORY.

Great art, great storytelling, beautiful colors (I om used to seeing your work in black ond white), funny stories, what more could you want? You outdid yourself.

I even purchased an extro copy of #1 to help the book sell better!

Con't wait until the next issue!!

I have a question about Shades of Groy...I have never been able to find the #1 issue from Lady Luck Ltd. I have all the other ones. When I first started reading it, you were on issue 4 or 5 of the Lady Luck series and you were already sold out of #1.

Steve Snyder
via internet.

Shades af Gray #1 has been sald aut far about eight years naw, but I'll tell yau what. First five peaple wha write in with the carrect name af Marie's bayfriend (befare Peter), ar the name af Anna's dag, win an autagraphed capy af Shades af Gray #1.

That's it far this issue. See yau all in sixty days far #7. Or, if any af yau are planning ta attend the San Diega Camican, be sure ta stap by and see us at the Cald Cut Independent Island.

IN WITH THE OUT CROWD

the

AMELIA Rules!

TRADE PAPERBACK

Collecting the first 5 acclaimed issues of the cult hit comic series.

158 pages full color $14.95

"These kids are REAL... and Mr. Gownley is a GENIUS at showing their perspective."

Johanna Draper-Carlson
Comics Worth Reading

"TERRIFIC STUFF! There's a lot of TALENT in these pages."

Mike Allred
X-Force, Madman

"A PEANUTS for the 21st Century."

Phil Mateer
The Comics Buyer's Guide

"Appeals to REAL PEOPLE of ALL AGES"

Eddie Campbell
How to be an Artist

AMELIA RULES!: IN WITH THE OUT CROWD
AVAILABLE IN COMIC SHOPS THIS JUNE.
FROM RENAISSANCE PRESS
WELCOME TO THE NEW MAINSTREAM

HOO HOO

I invented downloading

Tell em' Fred.....

Slanned

by

realsandman